

Wm L. Garrison Esq Philad^a Feb. 13 1868

10
I cannot restrain the desire
I have to thank you, a steadfast & consistent
philanthropist, for your late admirable article
in the Independent.

The Editorial, to which you
refer confounded me, & my first impulse was
to write Gilton & beg him to retract it, but on
reflection ^{I concluded} he would not be likely to do so, for evidently
to please his High-Church friends he wrote
it or had it written. John H. Hopkins Dr. the
Bishop's son & Editor of "The Ch: Journal," I am
informed, is a personal friend of Gilton & he
may have written it, for there are some things
in it which, as not being of the Epis: Ch: the
Editor of the Independent could hardly have
known.

(You are right in saying - "he died &
made no sign". A clergyman, a friend of
mine told me that soon ~~after~~ after the war he
saw the Bishop in this City, & in the course
of conversation, he said to him, "Bishop you
may have had occasion to modify or change your
views & feelings in regard to slavery!" he proudly
drew himself up & indignantly exclaimed "I
change Sir! I change! no Sir! no! I don't change,
You could as well uproot the mountains as to

drive me from a position I have well assumed!"

In relation to Bp. Hopkins I have some personal knowledge of him as well as much I have obtained from his writings & his acts as a public man. I have no hesitation in saying, of him, as did an intelligent shrewd old farmer of Vermont (an Episcopalian too who had observed him closely) - "I consider him for a very bad man, a curse to the Church & a disgrace to the whole community!" It was said of John Randolph

by a Virginian "As he advanced in life this overbearing self-estimation grew monstrous

"Big man me John!"

and the vigors or littleness of other men's services was valued & proclaimed just in proportion as it elevated or depressed the interest & personal dignity of the orator of Roanoke."

With equal truth may this be said of the late Bp. - "This overbearing self-estimation was at all times & everywhere his

giving passion, hence in all his relations in life both public & private he was impatient of restraint intoleration & unbearing.

By Nature a Despot he struck out a Theory of Episcopacy unknown in the American Ch: viz. that plenary Ecclesiastical power is in the Bp: & the Bp: alone & that all there is in the subordinate officers of the Church is simply a grant from him - he ruled his Diocese in this spirit - he drew up the Constitution & Canons of his ^{himself} Diocese in this spirit - gave himself "the Veto" ^{them} all all acts of the Convention - ordered it "to sit with closed doors" & would not permit free discussion - he was notorious for his privarication & entirely unreliable in all his dealings, - he failed for a large amount & could not hold property in his own name - Twenty years ago Bp: Downell of Connecticut said of him. "An accomplished man & or, but the least respected of all the Bishops." & Bishop Potter of Pennysl. ^{remarked} of him, "A most unhappily constituted man - he always manages to get on the ^{have} wrong side!" A more unfeeling man could not ^{have} been found to succeed the moderate & excellent Bishop Griswold, - Bishop Hopkins was elected by only one majority - of the seven clergymen who voted for him six were High-Churchmen - & the one who elected him was moderate as to his principles & was afterwards heard to say afterwards, that there was no

act of his life he regretted more than the
casting of that vote; His son, the Editor, a
most unworthy man, in whom no body has the
least confidence, ^{has labored for years} to exact his father in the estima-
-tion of the community, but he did not succeed,
- ~~but~~ the Bishop had "accomplishments",
no one, denying, but as to his "learning" scholars
have never acknowledged it - his books &
other writings indicate a great want of
"Common sense", & are remarkable for their
flippancy, so that Tilton, if he did
write that editorial, had no correct
knowledge of the man.

I will furnish him with these facts
& it may be, after our "protest" he
may be induced to modify, if he does not
retract his statements.

P.S

I had not noticed the

Editor's notice of your
article before this was

written. You observed he did
not write the editorial

Respectfully yours

Robert Beattie.